

Table 12.1: Percent Prevalence of Self-Reported Arthritis and Surgical Treatment for Arthritis^{1,2}

Condition and Treatment	Total (N=1002)	Age Group			Disability Level		
		65-74 (N=388)	75-84 (N=311)	85+ (N=303)	Moderate ³ (N=343)	ADL Difficulty	
						Receives No Help (N=478)	Receives Help (N=181)
Self-report of arthritis ⁴	76.1	75.4	77.4	74.6	70.0	80.4	76.9
Has a doctor ever told you that you had arthritis? ⁵							
Yes	75.1	74.7	76.5	72.6	68.5	79.8	75.5
Are you currently being treated or taking medication for arthritis?							
Yes	42.2	42.5	44.7	34.6	37.7	44.5	45.3
Which type of arthritis do you have? ⁶							
Rheumatoid arthritis	11.6	10.1	14.4	8.7	10.2	11.3	15.5
Osteoarthritis or degenerative arthritis	21.8	26.4	19.0	16.1	17.7	24.6	22.7
Some other type	1.9	1.4	2.8	0.9	2.3	1.8	1.3
Don't know	40.8	37.5	41.3	48.9	39.8	42.7	37.4
Any surgery for arthritis ⁷	8.4	8.4	9.1	6.6	3.5	11.2	10.8
Hip surgery ⁸	2.2	1.9	2.9	1.3	0.4	3.3	3.1
Knee surgery ⁹	5.0	5.5	4.7	4.1	2.2	6.8	5.8

(Women's Health and Aging Study, screening and baseline interviews, 1992-1995)

¹ All variables have less than 1% missing data. Results are based on non-missing data.

² Descriptive statistics are based on weighted data.

³ No ADL difficulty; disabled in two or more domains (see Chapter 1).

⁴ "Yes" response to either the question about doctor's diagnosis of arthritis or the question about treatment or medication for arthritis.

⁵ The question was asked in the screener interview and the presence of the condition was confirmed in the baseline interview.

⁶ Categories may not add up to percent reporting arthritis due to rounding.

⁷ "Yes" response to "Have you ever had any operations for treatment of your arthritis?"

⁸ "Yes" response to either "Was your right hip operated on?" or "Was your left hip operated on?"

⁹ "Yes" response to either "Was your right knee operated on?" or "Was your left knee operated on?"